

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 13-20, without prejudice.

1. (Original) An information storage system comprising:  
an information storage medium;  
at least one read/write head comprising a transducer for information introduction and/or retrieval from the information storage medium; and  
an actuator supporting at least one read/write head for moving the transducer relative to the information storage medium;  
wherein the information storage medium has a composite nickel coating thereon including an electrolessly deposited nickel layer formed on a sputter deposited nickel layer.
2. (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.
3. (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.
4. (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 10 Å to about 1000 Å.
5. (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 0.5 microns to about 10 microns.
6. (Original) The information storage system of claim 1 wherein the composite nickel coating has a surface roughness (Ra) less than about 10 Å.

7. (Original) An information storage medium for use in an information storage system, comprising:
  - a disk having a composite nickel coating including an electrolessly deposited nickel layer formed on a sputter deposited nickel layer thereon.
8. (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.
9. (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer comprises nickel-phosphorus.
10. (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the sputter deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 10 Å to about 1000 Å.
11. (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the electrolessly deposited nickel layer has a thickness in a range of about 0.5 microns to about 10 microns.
12. (Original) The information storage medium of claim 7 wherein the composite nickel coating has a surface roughness (Ra) less than about 10 Å.

13-20 (Canceled)